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By:

Nancy Foster
Nancy Foster

PATENT APPLICATION

Customer Number: 22,852

Attorney Docket No. 4853.0072-00000

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Norimasa OKUDA et al.

RECEIVED

APR 24 2002

Serial No.: 09/870,483

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Group Art Unit: 1623

Filed: June 1, 2001

Examiner: Taylor V. Oh

Title: A METHOD FOR PRODUCING
 α -HYDROXYCARBOXYLIC ACID

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Applicants now respond to the Office Action dated December 17, 2001, the period for reply having been extended one month through April 17, 2002, with the attached Petition for Extension of Time and payment of the requisite fee. Please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 4, 5, 6, 10, and 12, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claims 3 and 7 to read:

3. (Amended) The method for producing α -hydroxycarboxylic acid according to claim 1, wherein the hydrolysis reaction is carried out using mineral acid selected from hydrochloric acid, sulfuric acid, boracic acid, phosphoric acid, and perchloric acid.

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